
Remarks & Arguments

The application presently contains the following claims:

<i>Independent Claim #</i>	<i>Dependent Claim #s</i>
1	8-10, 19, 21, 30-32

Claims 1, 8-10, 19, 21 and 30-32 are currently in the application. Claims 1, 8-10, 19 and 21 have been amended while claims 30-32 are newly added. Support for the amended and newly added claims can be found with reference to the originally filed Figures. Newly submitted claims 30-32 cover the situation where the bar-engaging tabs and the nut-engaging figures of the species are illustrated in Figs. 5-14 and Fig. 21, extend in the same or opposite axial directions insofar as they relate to Figs. 5-14 or only in opposed axial directions insofar as Fig. 21 is concerned. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 11-18, 20, 22-23 are canceled while claims 5, 24-29 are withdrawn.

The examiner has indicated that claims 7 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, claims 8-10 and 15-18 will be allowable because they depend from claims 7 and 14 respectively.

Election/Restrictions

The examiner acknowledged the applicant's election with traverse of Specie 2 in Paper No. 5. The examiner has made the restriction requirement final and has indicated that claims 1-4 and 6-18 as drawn to the elected species. Claims 5 and 24-29 were previously withdrawn and the examiner additionally withdrew claims 19-23 in that the examiner indicated that they did not read on Figs. 5-21, but rather read on Figs. 22-26, which was Specie 3.

The applicant would respectfully request that the examiner consider the withdrawal of claims 19 and 21 in that they clearly are concerned with the urging of "said at least one axially projecting finger outwardly to engage an adjacent inner end of a nut to resist rotation thereof," which is quite contrary to the teachings of Figs. 22-26 and the description

related thereto. Claims 19 and 21 read on Figs. 5-21 and the examiner's withdrawal of those respective claims is requested to be withdrawn.

Drawings

The examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) because they include reference numerals 65A and 65B which are not mentioned in the Specification. These reference numbers have been removed from the drawing, and a substitute drawing provided herewith, thereby rendering moot this basis for the rejection by the examiner.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6 and 11-13 under this section subparagraph (b) as being anticipated by *Schwab*, USP 1,358,586. The examiner has further rejected claims 1-4 under this section, subparagraph (b) as anticipated by *Steele*, USP 1,021,559. The examiner still further rejected claims 1-4, 6 and 11-13 under this section, subparagraph (b) as being anticipated by *Rohlin*, USP 606,582. The examiner has represented that *Schwab* or *Steele* or *Rohlin* disclosed the claimed apparatus provided his reasons therefore.

Bushell et al., as presently claimed, distinguishes over *Schwab* or *Steele* or *Rohlin* in a novel manner and it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended remove this '586 patent as an anticipatory reference. As amended, independent claim #1 includes the limitations of original claims 2-4 and 6-7, in conformity with the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim #1 as amended, is not anticipated in that the locking member includes at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position, urging a nut engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut. The *Schwab* patent discloses that the locking member includes at least one nut-engaging element projecting axially from the locking member but fails to disclose at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position urging a nut-engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut. The *Rohlin* patent discloses that the locking member includes at least one nut-engaging element projecting axially from the locking member but fails to disclose at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position urging a nut-engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The examiner has rejected claims 6 and 11-13 under this section, subparagraph (a) as being unpatentable over *Steele*, in view of *Schwab* (U.S. Patent 4,204,349).

In light of the amendments made to the independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the *Bushnell et al.*, invention distinguishes in a non-obvious manner over *Steele* in view of *Schwab* taken in combination therewith.

Claim #1 as amended, is not rendered obvious in that the locking member includes a generally disc-like body and at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position, urging a nut engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut. The *Steele* patent fails to disclose that the locking member has a generally disc-like body. The *Schwab* patent discloses that the locking member includes at least one nut-engaging element projecting axially from the locking member but fails to disclose at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position urging a nut-engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut. The *Rohlin* patent discloses that the locking member includes at least one nut-engaging element projecting axially from the locking member but fails to disclose at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position urging a nut-engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut.

Request for Reconsideration

Applicant believes that all independent claims clearly define over the prior art and that the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Additionally, the remaining dependent claims, by the limitations contained in the base independent claims, are felt to be patentable over the prior art by virtue of their dependency from independent claims which distinguish over the prior art of record. All pending claims are thought to be allowable and reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that no new additional searching will be required by the examiner.

Fee Determination Record

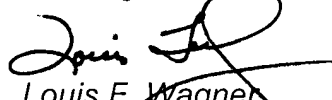
A fee determination sheet is attached for this amendment response. The

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required to effect the filing of this document to Account No. 50-0983.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all references identified by the examiner have been distinguished in a non-obvious way. If the examiner believes that a telephonic conversation would facilitate a resolution of any and/or all of the outstanding issues pending in this application, then such a call is cordially invited at the convenience of the examiner.

Respectfully Submitted,
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP


Louis F. Wagner
LWagner@bdblawn.com
Registration No.: 38,730

Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP
50 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 1500
Akron, Ohio 44309-1500
(330) 258-6453 (telephone)
(330) 252-5452 (fax)
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